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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 10/666,585 | 09/18/2003 | Kenichi Tezuka | 42530-5600 | 9171 |
| 21611 | 7590 | 06/26/2006 | EXAMINER | |
| SNELL & WILMER LLP 600 ANTON BOULEVARD SUITE 1400 COSTA MESA, CA 92626 | | | | BEAUCHAINE, MARK J |
| | | ART UNIT | | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | 3653 | | |

DATE MAILED: 06/26/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/666,585 | TEZUKA, KENICHI |
| | Examiner Mark J. Beauchaine | Art Unit 3653 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 September 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-5, and 7-13 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 6 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 18 September 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/18/03.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted structural cooperative relationship is the communication between the machine-readable medium and the banknote accepting unit. It is unclear whether the combination of the machine and the medium or just the medium in the preamble is being claimed. The body of the claim does not appear to further limit the medium of the preamble.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and

the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patent Number 5,366,110 by Takemoto et al (hereinafter "Takemoto") in view of Patent Number 3,165,185 by Moore (hereinafter "Moore"). The token dispenser disclosed by Takemoto incorporates currency insertion slot 17, CPU (see Figure 12), token receiving port 1, display 14 that read on the Applicant's banknote accepting unit, control unit, token dispensing unit and display unit, respectively.

Although Takemoto fails to disclose a clock arrangement controlling the amounts of tokens being dispensed the use of such time-based dispensing is well known in the art. Moore teaches a clock-controlled dispenser that varies the price of vended commodities according to the time when the machine is being used (column 1, lines 7-10) based on the setting of clock 13. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the clock arrangement of Moore into the dispenser of Takemoto to provide an effective means of pricing articles dispensed.

Although Takemoto fails to disclose means for accepting and determining various denominations of currency the use of such means in token actuated apparatus is well known in the art. Moore teaches apparatus actuation based on the determination of a particular denomination being inserted into receiving slots 18 (column 2, lines 25-28). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the receiving slots of Moore into the token dispenser of Takemoto to provide an effective means of determining currency denomination.

Although Takemoto fails to disclose a dispensing number setting unit the use of varying the cost/payout ratio of vending apparatus is well known in the art. Moore teaches changeable coin receiving devices 21, 22 and 23 that receive coins of various denominations and are engaged and disengaged by solenoids 32, 33 and 34. These solenoids set the cost of products sold and read on the applicant's dispensing number setting unit. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the receiving device/solenoid arrangement of Moore into the token dispenser of Takemoto to provide an effective means of changing the amount of vended product per quantity of currency inserted into the apparatus.

Regarding claims 2 and 4, it is well known in the art to incorporate time and date information into clock devices of article dispensers and would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include such in the clock 13 of Moore.

Regarding claims 5, 7 and 8, touch screen interfaces, speakers and coin dispensers are well known in the art and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate a touch screen interface, speaker and coin dispenser into the dispenser of Takemoto to provide an effective operator interaction with the apparatus.

Regarding claim 10, a parallel/overlap configuration of a user interface and display unit would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide an operator interface section having a minimum profile.

Regarding claim 11, liquid crystal displays, etc. are well known in the art and would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate into the display 14 of Takemoto to provide an effective operator interface means.

Regarding claim 12, the insertion of currency into the slot 17 of Takemoto reads on the Applicant's step of receiving a banknote. Although Takemoto fails to disclose a means of determining time the use of such devices is well known in the art. Moore teaches clock 13 that activates a supply circuit (column 3, lines 12-32) to determine the cost of commodities dispensed. Said clock/dispensing operation reads on the Applicant's steps of time determination and quantity calculation. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the steps of Moore into the method of Takemoto to provide an effective pricing means.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takemoto in view of Moore as applied to claim 3 above, and further in view of Patent Number US 6,659,259 B2 by Knox et al (hereinafter "Knox"). Although Takemoto fails to disclose a smart card accepting unit the use of such payment devices is well known in the art. Knox teaches a dispensing apparatus that incorporates smart card reader 228. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made

to incorporate the reader 228 of Knox into the apparatus of Takemoto to provide and effective payment means.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takemoto in view of Moore. Takemoto discloses the operations of inserting currency into slot 17 and dispensing tokens via closure 8 which read on the Applicant's steps of receiving a value signal in a banknote accepting unit and dispensing tokens, respectively. Although Takemoto fails to disclose the step of receiving clock information controlling the amounts of tokens being dispensed the use of such time-based dispensing is well known in the art. Moore teaches a clock-controlled dispenser that varies the price of vended commodities according to the time when the machine is being used (column 1, lines 7-10) based on the setting of and signals generated by clock 13. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the clock signaling of Moore into the token dispenser of Takemoto to provide an effective means of pricing articles dispensed.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 6 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark J. Beauchaine whose telephone number is (571)272-6934. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM through 5:00PM Mondays through Thursdays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eileen Lillis can be reached on (571)272-6928. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

mjb



EILEEN D. LILLIS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

Fig. 1

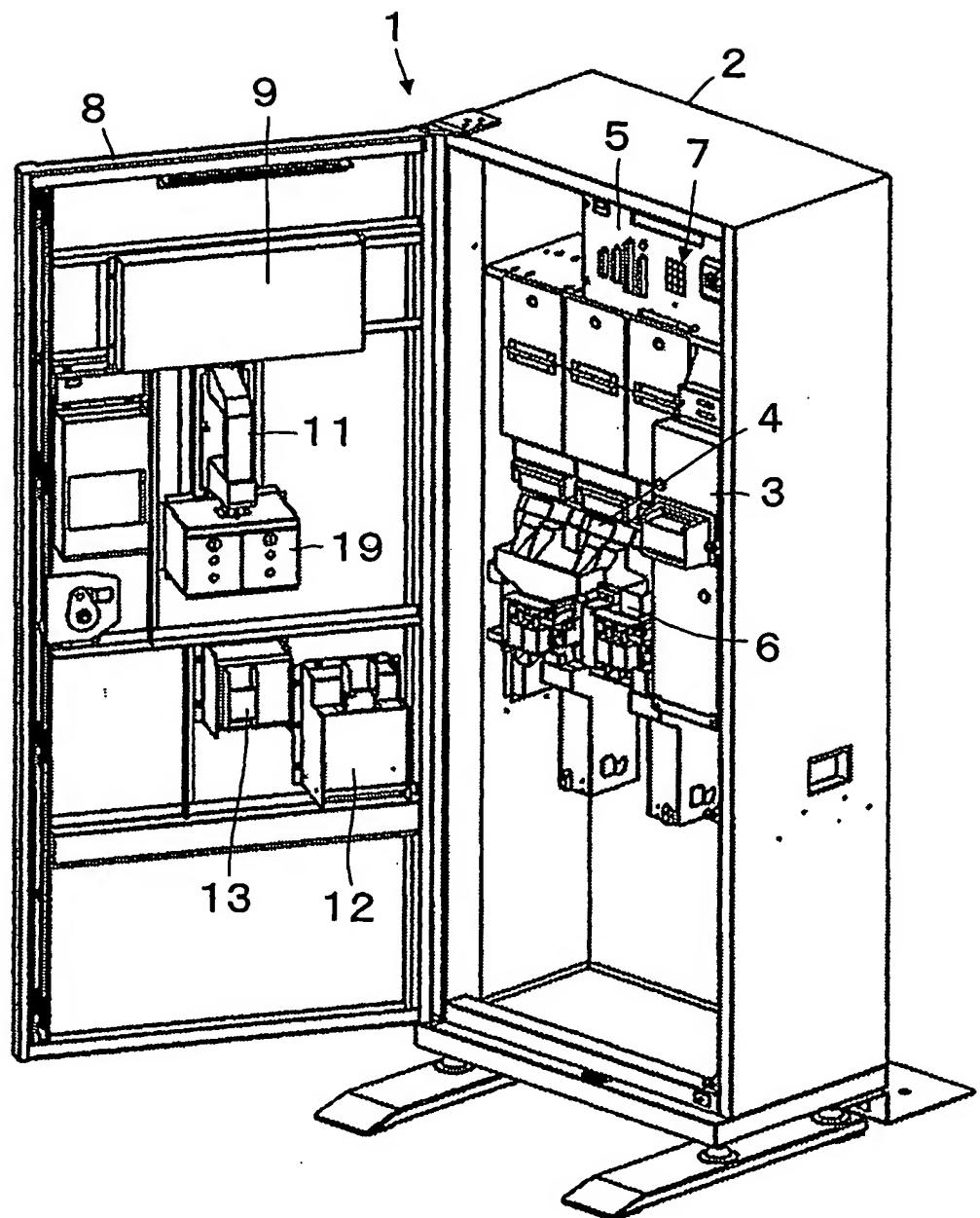


Fig. 2

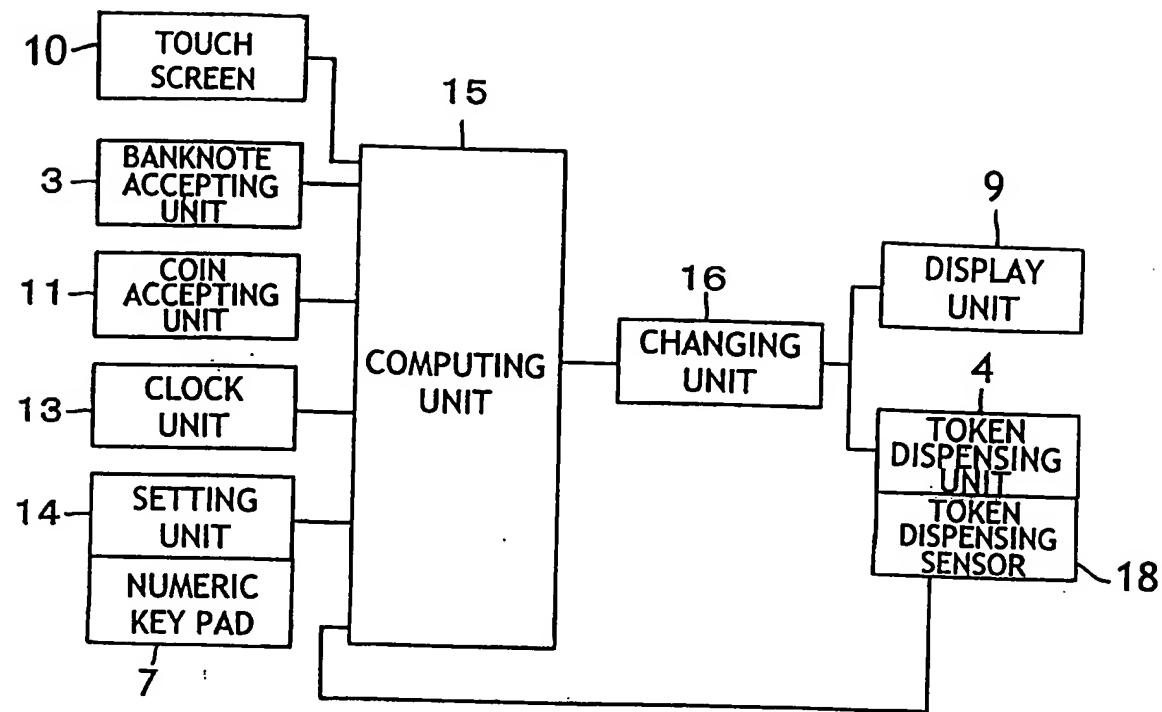


Fig. 3

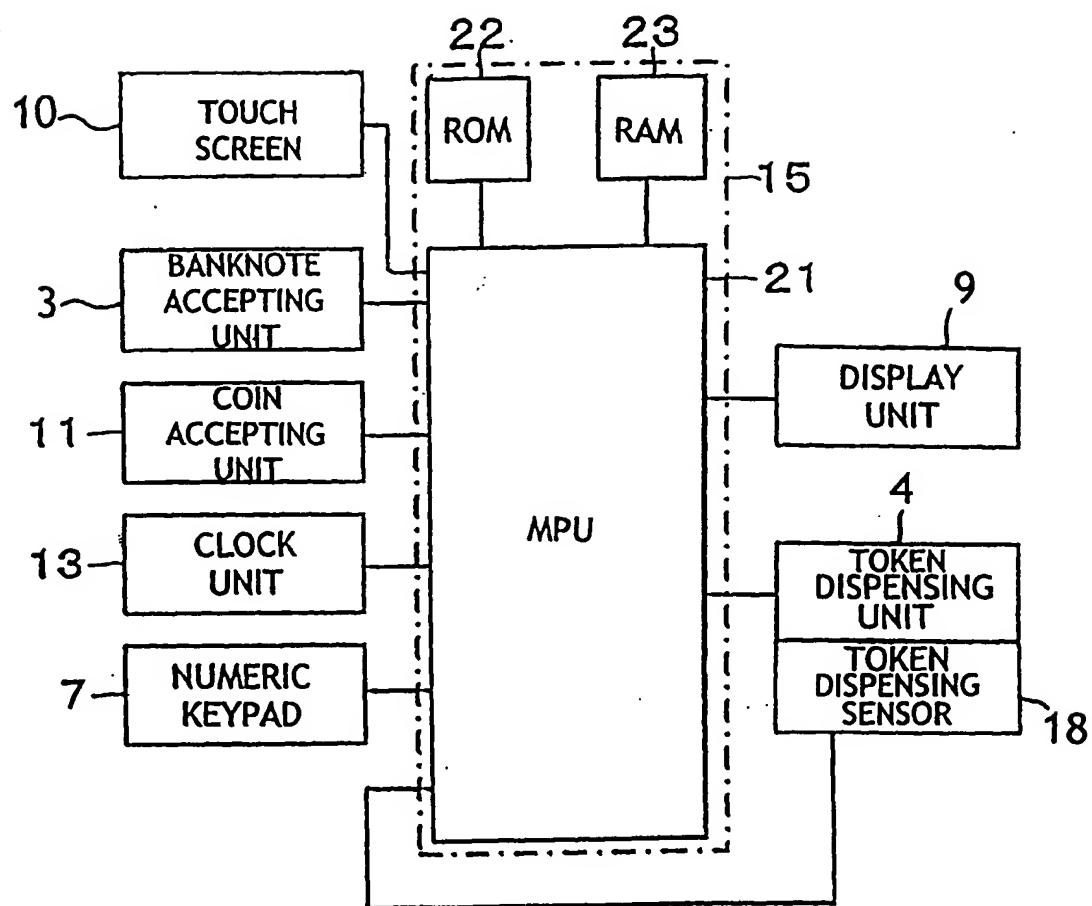
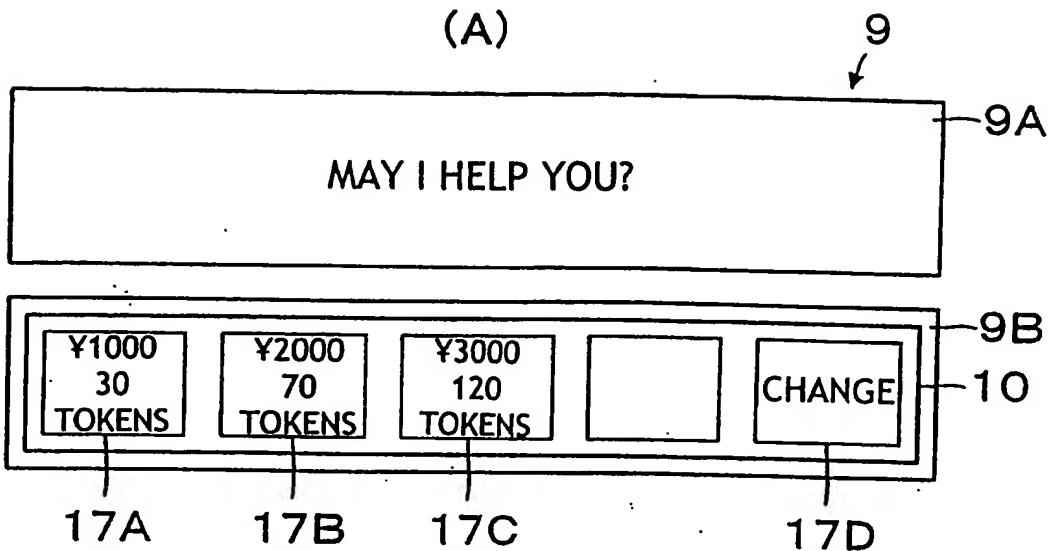


Fig. 4

(A)



(B)

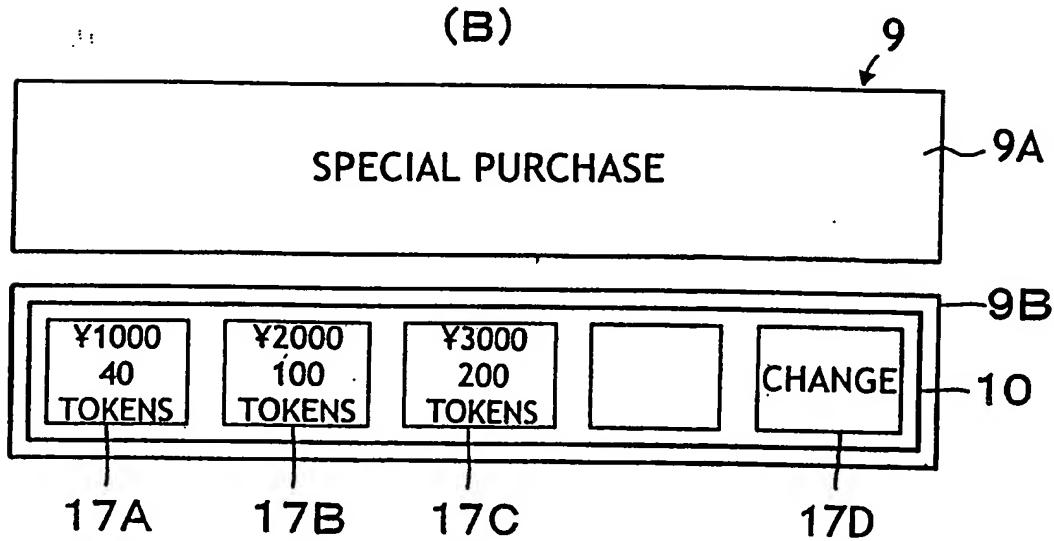


Fig. 5

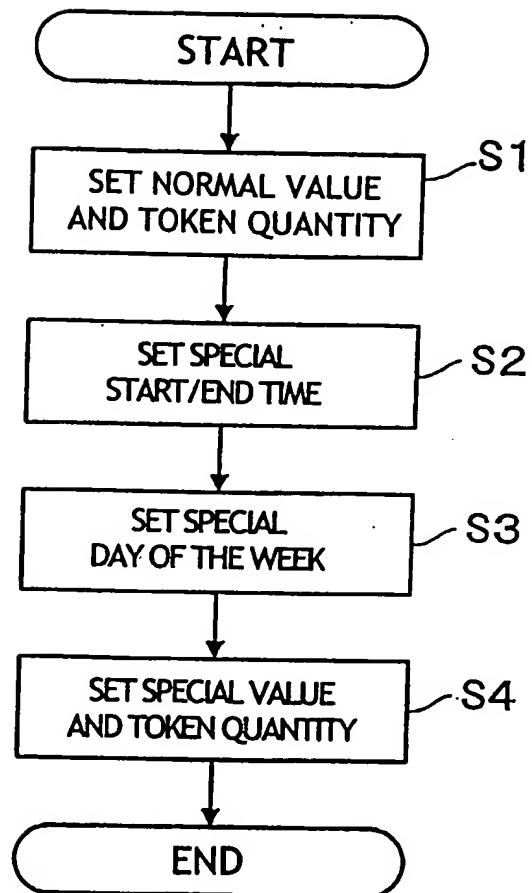


Fig. 6

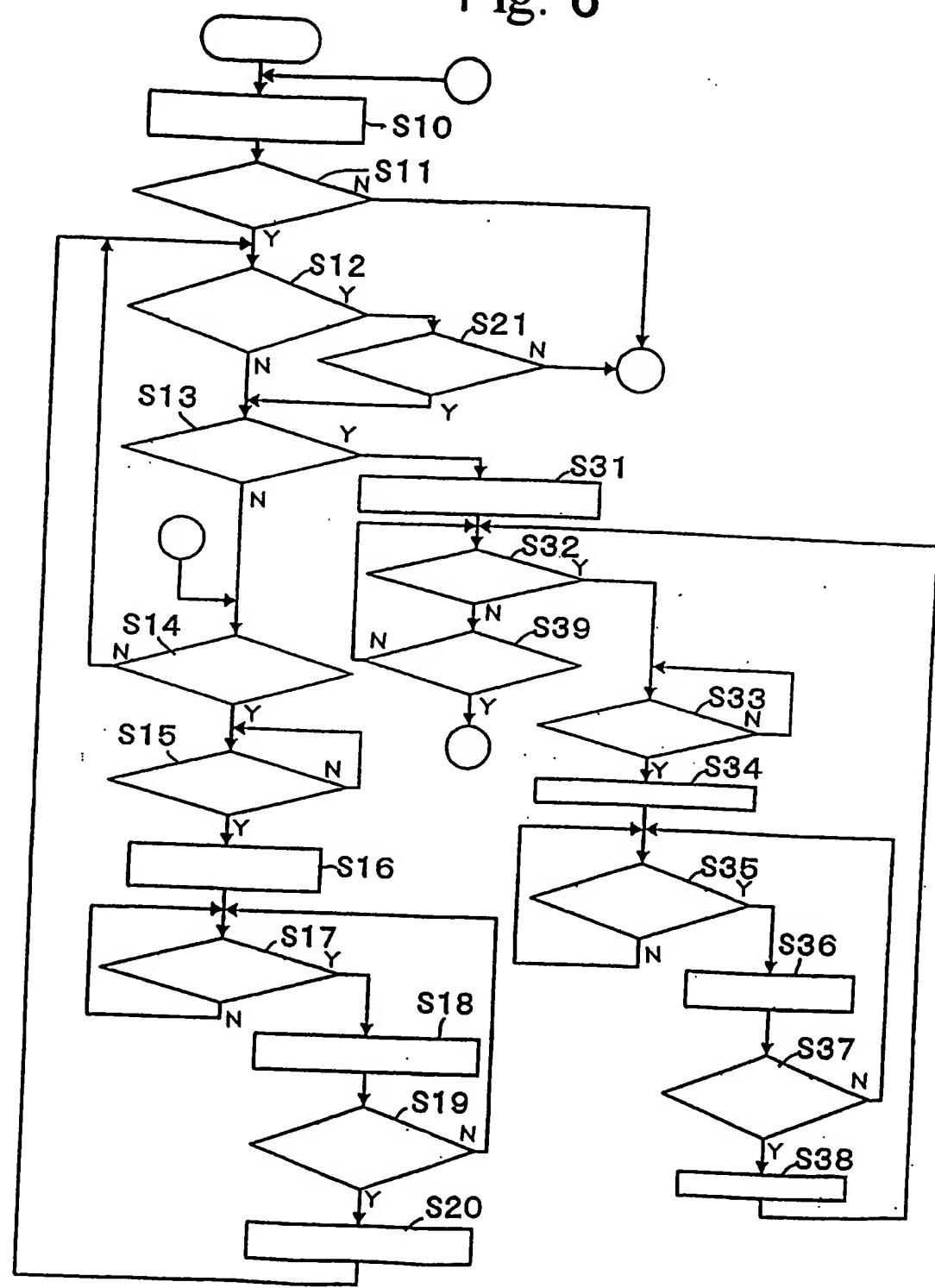
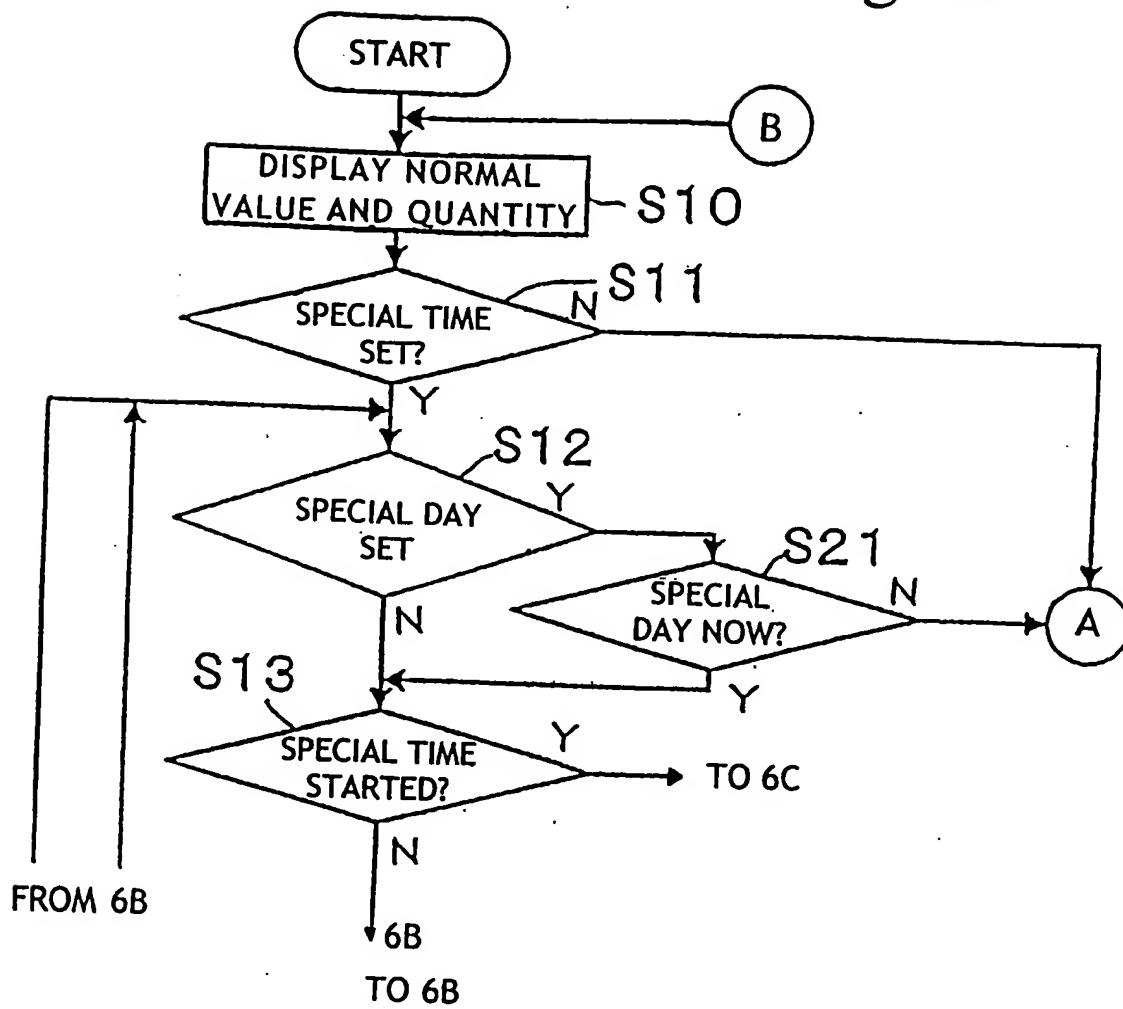


Fig. 6A



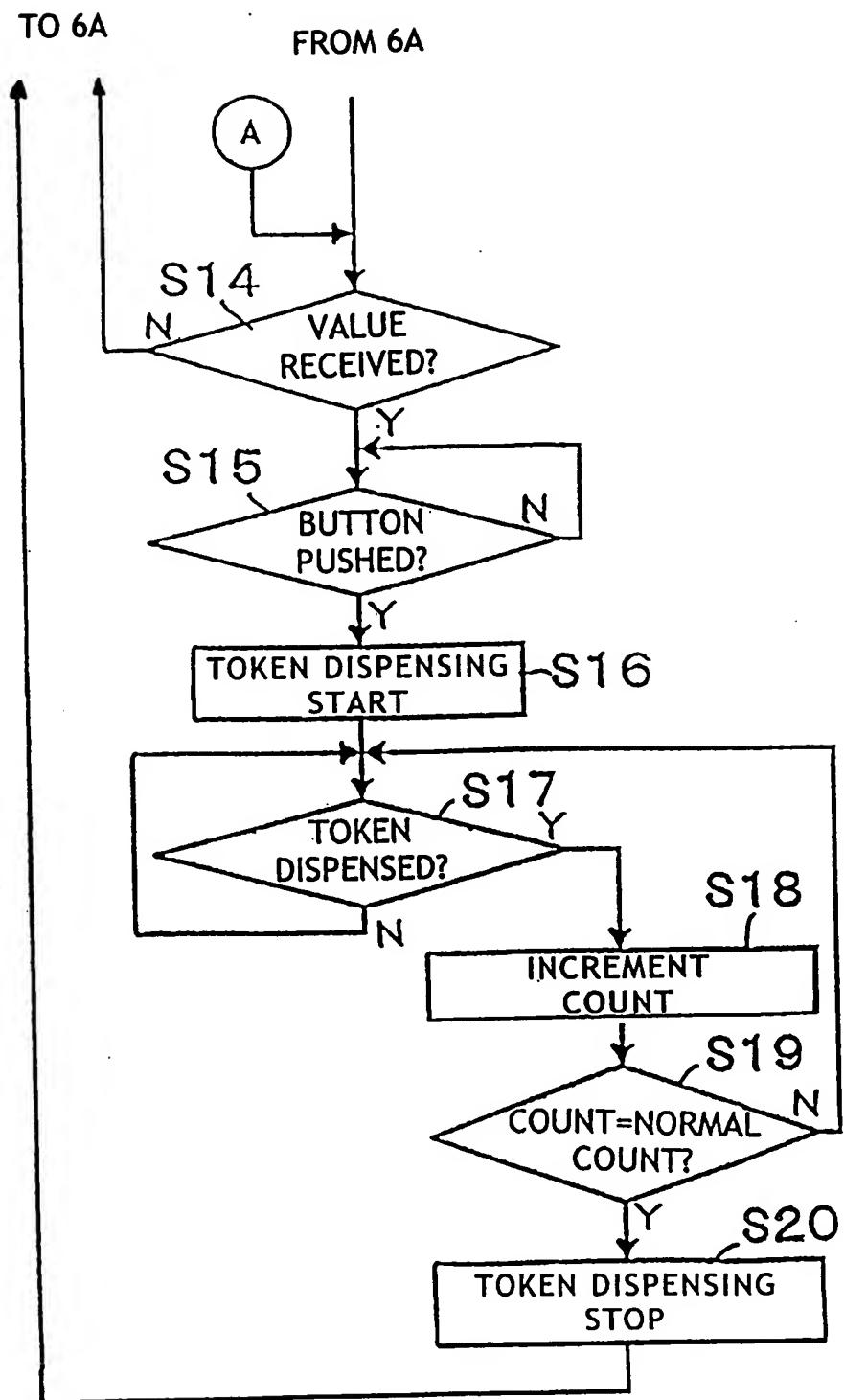


Fig. 6B

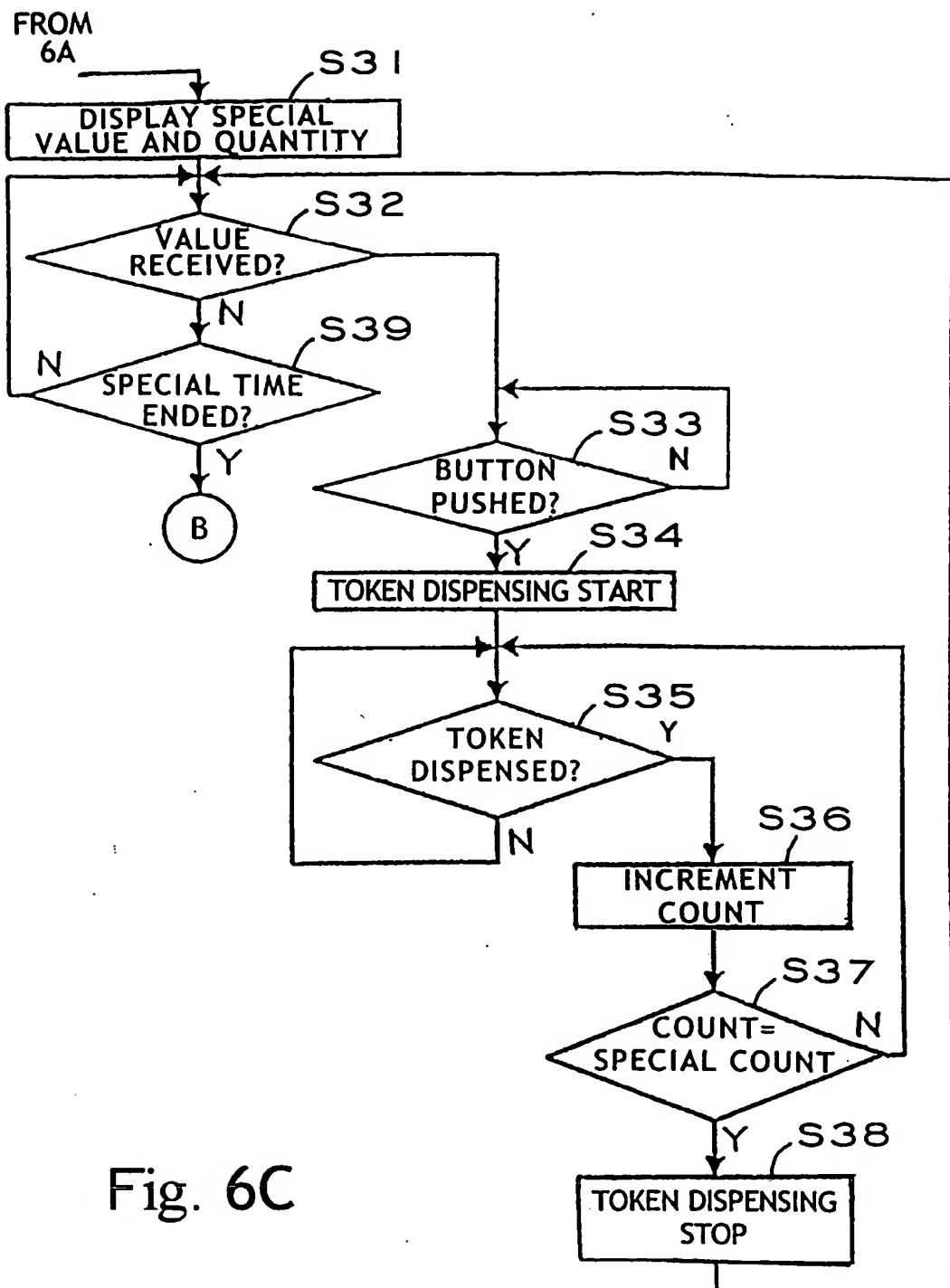


Fig. 6C